



Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting
Monday 22nd June 2009
Agenda

		Time	Lead
	Coffee and tea	09:45	
1	Welcome and Apologies	10:00	Isabel Glasgow (IG)
2	Minutes and Action Points from last FoCF meeting and matters arising	10:05	IG/All
3	Chair Update	10:15	IG
4	FoCF website	10:30	FM/DC
5	Clydebreakers	11:00	FM/DC
6	Conference 2009 - SSMEI	11:30	All
7	SSMEI update	12:00	John Donnelly
8	Update from Core Group members	12:30	All
9	Any other business		All
10	Future meeting dates		All
	Lunch	13:00	All
	Close		



Minutes of Firth of Clyde Forum Core Group Meeting

Monday 22nd June 2009

Scottish Natural Heritage, Clydebank

Present:

Isabel Glasgow (IG), Chair
Fiona Mills (FM), FoCF Project Manager
Danielle Casey (DC), SNH
Rhona Fairgrieve (RF), Scottish Coastal Forum
John Eddie Donnelly (JED), SSMEI
Zoe Clelland (ZC), RSPB
Roger Horne (RH), Clydeport
Ethel-May Abel (EMA), Glasgow City Council
Alice Bayles (AB), Scottish Government
Kate Whittaker (KW), Environmental Officer,
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

Apologies:

Ian Bray (IB), SNH
Paul Bancks (PB), The Crown Estate
Alistair Sinclair (AS), Scottish Creelers & Divers
Michelle Carroll (MC), Glasgow and Clyde Valley
Structure Plan Joint Committee
Ian Johnson (IJ), Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan
Mark Steward (MS) Argyll & Bute Council
Rebecca Dean (RD), Lighthouse Caledonia
Mike Balmforth (MB), British Marine Federation
Phil Alcock (PA), Scottish Government

ITEM 1: Welcome and Apologies

IG welcomed everyone present and informed the meeting of apologies received, then requested all attendees introduce themselves as there were a couple of unfamiliar faces round the table. In particular FM was welcomed as the new Project Manager, AB was welcomed from Marine Scotland, and KW from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. AB confirmed that the government is now funding the Project Manager position along with a further £8k for Forum activities. The government appreciates the broad spectrum of work undertaken by the Forum, and is keen to see the Forum develop in order to begin delivery of Firth of Clyde Marine Spatial Plan. KW is responsible for implementing ISO 14001 for SPT and is their new representative on the FoCF.

ITEM 2: Minutes, Action Points and Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes

Some minor amendments were noted to March's minutes and then they were signed off.

2.2 March Action Points

AP03/09 1	Re-circulate the Marine Directorate organogram to the Core Group.	Discharged
AP03/09 2	Circulate round the group a link to the vacancy on the SNH website for members to upload onto their own recruitment systems.	Discharged

2.3 Matters Arising

None.

ITEM 3: Chair Update

3.1 SSMEI Clyde Pilot consultation events

IG attended several consultation events and the Fishing Expo at the SSEC where SSMEI had a stand opposite Marine Scotland.

3.2 Scottish Coastal Forum

IG also attended the Coastal Partners Officers Meeting at Dunstaffnage which examined potential future roles for the regional Fora. There was also a discussion on how to pull together Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) into more geographically relevant marine area plans. The East Grampian project was presented as an example that could be rolled out to other areas. It would be appropriate for MS and MC to identify who may attend a future meeting on developing a Firth of Clyde BAP, to add value to LBAPs. This was followed the next day by the Scottish Coastal Forum plenary meeting including a presentation by David Palmer from Marine Scotland on the Marine Bill.

- Include BAP on next meeting Agenda

FM

ITEM 4: Firth of Clyde Forum Website

DC presented the new-look website and the response was generally positive with agreement that it was a great improvement. The new website address is www.clydeforum.com. Several actions were agreed as follows:

- Discussion Forum will be removed
- Keep Scotland Beautiful will be included on latest news section

- "Join our mailing list" will replace "newsletter alert"
 - The SSMEI logo will be moved up the page and an explanation inserted
 - Marine Scotland logo will be added
 - "Partners" will be changed to "Funding Partners"
 - An explanation will be included on the website to explain the funding partner's involvement in the FoCF
 - SSMEI Plan, once published can be included on the site
 - Duplicate of "GRAB Trust" will be removed
 - "Membership" will be changed to "Support Us" with options for membership as a funding partner, an association and an individual, including an option for donations.
 - New up-to-date projects and reports required – All
 - Generally more pictures will be included with potentially a gallery of pictures for download, copyright allowing
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- Implement agreed changes **FM/DC**
 - Send Marine Scotland logo to FM **AB**
 - Send new reports and projects to FM **All**

ITEM 5: Clyde Breakers

The next edition will be published in October 2009 limited to approximately 12 articles from among the following – Apple Orchards in the Clyde Valley, MCS Beachwatch, SSMEI update, Festival on the River, Diving in the Clyde, Arran Wildlife Festival, A Day in the Life, Titan Crane awards, Helensburgh Waste Water Treatment improvements, Green Blue photo competition, Marine Scotland, MSC certification, Clyde waterfront school, Clyde Heritage Guide.

- Confirm copy deadline **FM**
- Confirm Scottish Water contact and suitable candidate for the Day in the Life article **RH**
- Contribution on Arran Wildlife Festival **ZC**

ITEM 6: Conference 2009

It was agreed that the Conference would get the best attendance if it was held in Glasgow centre. Venues discussed were Trades Hall, St Andrews in the Square, Govan Parish Church and Pearce Institute. The date was agreed as Thursday 19th November. Conference theme was agreed as Marine Regional Planning, with a key speaker from Marine Scotland, a presentation of the implications of the Clyde Pilot Project and workshops in the afternoon to look at Action Plan priorities and implementation.

- Investigate venue and key speaker options **FM**

ITEM 7: SSMEI Update

The 9 consultation events have been completed with turnout varied. There were very positive comments on the SEA, however, it was noted that both documents need to be read together.

Feedback to date has been as follows:

- How to better engage local communities in the development of the Plan.
- A certain amount of data is already available for use. Is it necessary to get so much more data?
- Fisheries were not included as they were not within the remit of the Plan, however, they were seen as highly relevant to the Plan.
- Sea angling was not considered in enough detail.

- Mariculture was treated as a positive sustainable industry which was questioned at the event in Arran.
- Education, training and skills could be included within the Plan.
- Should coastal paths be included in the Plan?
- Should the Plan identify sites for future anchorage and mothballing of vessels?

Friday 26th June is the closing date of the consultation with a report of the feedback to be published in September.

The Forum debated whether it was clearly stated in the Plan that the Clyde has Moderate RBMP status. Again, this is stated in the SEA and both documents require to be read together.

Work has begun in developing a project for proposal 28 in the Action Plan, namely to carry out an assessment of fishing impacts on the marine environment. Funding will hopefully come from SEPA, SNH and Marine Scotland Science. A meeting will be held in around 6 weeks time to agree the research specification involving Millport and the Clyde IFG. ZC suggested that it may also be appropriate to involve an NGO such as Environment Link to ensure balance and buy-in.

- Discuss appropriate NGO involvement

ZC/JED

The SSMEI Clyde Pilot Project has been extended to end March 2010 in order to finalise the Plan and help establish the appropriate implementation body. JED suggested that a workshop would be appropriate to discuss the future format and role of the FoCF as the implementation body. See section 9 below.

ITEM 8: Update from Core Group Members

RH

- Attended the District Marine Safety Committee and provided a powerpoint presentation and links to both the SSMEI draft plan and the draft River Basin Management Plan which will reach all members of the committee.
- Around 40k passengers arrive into Greenock on cruise ships each year. An area onshore has been upgraded for their reception.
- Economic activity is generally declining with employment numbers down. Some boats are laid up in Loch Striven as this area has been historically used for long-term anchorage. The grade of the fuel used by these boats is in line with future MARPOL requirements from 2010.
- SEPA Water Framework Directive staff met with hydrographers from Clydeport to discuss how dredging spoils may be used instead of being released at sea.

ZC

- RSPB has been involved in the process of inputting to the Marine Bill and River Basin Management plans.
- RSPB will be responding to the SSMEI Clyde Project Consultation.
- The Arran Wildlife Festival was a success with several marine based activities taking place including a boat trip to Ailsa Craig.
- The beach bird survey indicates that fewer numbers of birds have been washed up on the beach due to oiling this year. However, this may indicate lower numbers of birds overall.
- Survey work on Ailsa Craig will be finished in Autumn to provide an up-to-date view of species status. Generally puffin numbers look to be holding up, whilst kittiwakes, an indicator species of environmental quality, are unfortunately in decline.
- RSPB has purchased land at Irvine which is part of the SSSI in that area.

RF

- MSP comments on ICZM are with the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee. Now focus is on looking at cross-border management in the Solway Firth.
- The Area Advisory Groups were reported to be seen as a positive model for engaging stakeholders, however, this is not necessarily representative of the experience of coastal partnerships.
- A report will be submitted to the government by the end of the month recommending criteria for defining Scottish Marine Regions, as will be required by the Scottish Marine Bill.

AB

- Marine Scotland is currently working with SNH and NGOs to look at criteria for a selection of Marine Protected Areas.

EMA

- River Festival date is 25th and 26th July 2009.
- The Heritage Guide is now launched covering 12 areas of historic importance along the Clyde from Glasgow Green to Dumbarton
- The Classroom on the Clyde is up and running, with funding for 1 year, co-funded by the schools that take part. This allows school children to take an educational river cruise. The launch has been supported by a poster campaign.
- There has been a planning request for the development of a marine outside Custom House Quay in Glasgow city centre. Although the marina is already being marketed, various planning caveats are in place from before the development can go ahead.
- Glasgow City Council are looking at the legacy post the Commonwealth Games on the Clydeside, such as improvements to the Clyde Walkway.
- SPT are considering replacing the 2 boats covering the Yoker – Renfrew ferry service with 1 vessel. They are also considering an increased routing for this vessel.

ITEM 9: Any other business

It was agreed that a workshop should be held for FoCF core members to discuss the future role of the Forum in relation to implementation of the SSMEI Plan and marine spatial planning generally, particularly in light of the Marine Bill. This will be held as part of the next meeting as indicated in item 10.

- Venue, external facilitation and running order of workshop **JED/FM**

The Marine Conservation Society have been in contact to discuss collaboration on a Clyde Marine Conservation Week in 2011. This was generally seen as a good event for FoCF to be involved in. FM to follow up.

ITEM 10: Next meetings

The next meeting will be over 1.5 days, the 1st and 2nd September in Glasgow, including a short Forum meeting, a workshop (see above) and an SSMEI meeting.

The last meeting of 2009 will be on 2nd December.

Summary of June 09 Action Points

AP 22/06 1	Include BAP on next meeting Agenda	FM
AP 22/06 2	Implement agreed changes to website	DC/FM
AP 22/06 3	Send Marine Scotland logo to FM for the website	AB
AP 22/06 4	Send new reports and projects to FM for the website	All
AP 22/06 5	Confirm copy deadline for Clyde Breakers	FM

AP 22/06 6	Confirm Scottish Water contact and suitable candidate for the Day in the Life article	RH
AP 22/06 7	Contribution on Arran Wildlife Festival for Clyde Breakers	ZC
AP 22/06 8	Investigate venue and key speaker options for Conference	FM
AP 22/06 9	Discuss appropriate NGO involvement in fishery impact research	JED/ZC
AP 22/06 10	Venue, external facilitation and running order of workshop for next meeting	JED/FM